

DOCKET NO.: TN099
Application No.: 09/418,083
Office Action Dated: March 16, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 1-17, with the following revised paragraph:

"In the drawings, where like numerals represent like elements throughout, Figures 6-8 are block diagrams illustrating embodiments of the present invention for each of the interconnects described above with respect to Figures 3-5, in which the methods and apparatus of the present invention are implemented as part of a Cooperative Networking Platform (CNP) deployed on a Unisys ClearPath HMP NX computer system ("the ClearPath system"). In each case, a first network protocol provider 44 is provided on the each A Series system 100, in this case a TCP/IP HRNP, and it has multiple network addresses (i.e., IP addresses) associated with it, one for each connection (e.g., channel adapter) out of the each A Series system 100. As will be explained in detail below, the each A Series system 100 also includes a DTCM-Client 90 and a Messaging SubSystem ("MSS") 92 which allow the each A Series system 100 to bypass the conventional ISO network protocol stack for communications with the one or more NT Servers 102 via the interconnect."

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, line 18, through page 25, line 5, with the following revised paragraph:

"A second network protocol provider 58 is provided on the each NT Server 102, in this case TCPIP.SYS (available from Microsoft Corporation), and it has its own network address (i.e., IP address) associated with each network interface card ("NIC") that defines a second network address in this embodiment. As also will be explained in detail below, the each NT Server 102 also includes a DTCM-Server 94 and a Messaging SubSystem ("MSS") 96 which allow the each NT Server 102 to bypass the conventional ISO network protocol stack for communications with the one or more A Series servers 100 via the interconnect. Also, a NIC 50 is installed in a slot of the I/O bus (e.g., EISA or PCI) of the each NT server 102. Any LAN type NIC that is compatible with Windows NT can be employed. Preferably, the NIC supports the Fast Ethernet networking protocol (e.g., 100Base T). NICs of this type are available from numerous vendors and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). NICs supporting other physical media types, such as Ethernet/802.3, FDDI, or Gigabit Ethernet, or

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ATM can alternatively be employed. Typically, a NIC vendor will supply a device driver with the NIC, which is installed in the kernel space of the operating system so that other entities on the system can access the networking functionality of the NIC. The NIC 50 of the exemplary systems of Figures 6-8 has a device driver 54 (A<nicdrv>.sys@) that is installed in the Windows NT kernel space, as shown."